A2 is Val or Ala;

A8 is Asn or Ser;

A13 is Val or Ile;

A15 is Ala or Gly;

A18 is Ser or Tyr;

A24 is Gln or His;

A25 is Asp or Glu;

A27 is Met, Ile or Nle;

A1 cont

A28 is Ser or Asn;

A30 is a bond or any amino acid sequence of 1 to 15 residues;

$\mathbf{R_0}$ is NH_2 or NH-(CH_2)**n**-$CONH_2$, with **n**=1 to 12; and

X is a hydrophobic tail anchored via an amide bond to the N-terminus of the peptide and said hydrophobic tail defining a backbone of 5 to 7 atoms;

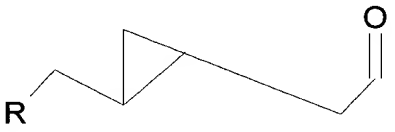
wherein said backbone can be substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, or C_{6-12} aryl,

and said backbone comprises at least one rigidifying moiety connected to at least two atoms of the backbone;

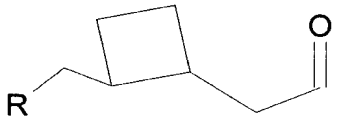
said moiety is selected from the group consisting of triple bond, saturated or unsaturated C_{3-9} cycloalkyl, and C_{6-12} aryl.

2. (Amended) The hydrophobic GRF analog of claim 1, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of:

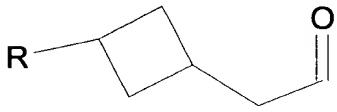
1 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3);



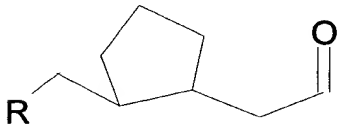
2 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



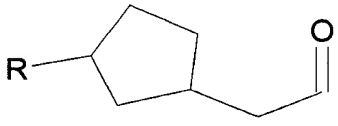
3 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



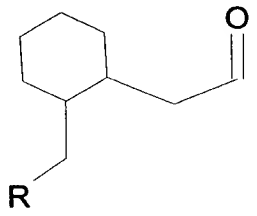
4 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



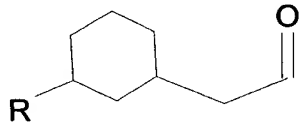
5 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



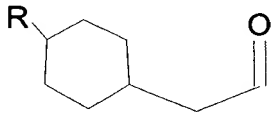
6 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



7 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;

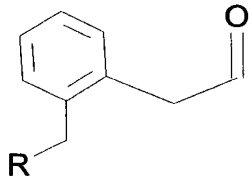


8 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;

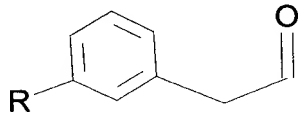


9 (R = H or CH_3) ;

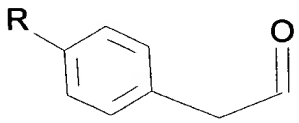
A' cont



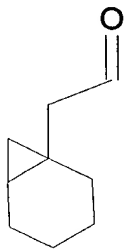
10 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



11 (R = H or CH_3 or CH_2CH_3) ;



12 (R = H or CH_3) ; and



A1 cont

II. 4. (Amended) A method for increasing the level of growth hormone in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

III. 5. (Amended) A method for the diagnosis of growth hormone deficiency in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1 and measuring growth hormone response.

A2 IV. 6. (Amended) A method for the treatment of pituitary drawfism or growth retardation in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

V. 7. (Amended) A method for the treatment of wound or bone healing in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

VI. 8. (Amended) A method for the treatment of osteoporosis in a patient, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

VII 9. (Amended) A method for improving protein anabolism in a human or an animal, the method comprising administering to said human or animal an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

10. (Amended) A method for inducing a lipolytic effect in a human or an animal inflicted with clinical obesity, the method comprising administering to the human or animal an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Amended) A method for the overall upgrading of somatroph function in human or animal, the method comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a GRF analog as claimed in claim 1.

(Applicant's Remarks are set forth hereinbelow, starting on the following page.)